



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

DPS investigates head-on collision near Lake Pleasant that resulted in the deaths of three people

On Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at approximately 6:20 p.m., the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a four vehicle head-on collision on State Route 74 at milepost 20.8 (near Lake Pleasant) which resulted in the deaths of three people.

All lanes of travel were blocked by a commercial vehicle (driver), a gold colored passenger car (driver and three occupants), a box truck (driver) and a passenger van (driver and seven occupants). The three who died in the collision were occupants of the gold passenger car. They had been ejected from the vehicle, leaving bio-hazardous material strewn across the roadway. State Route 74 was closed in both directions from approximately 6:20 p.m. until 4:18 a.m. on the 23rd, to complete the accident investigation and collect all bio-hazardous material.

Just prior to the collision, the white passenger van was being followed by the gold passenger car traveling eastbound on SR 74 (occupants from both of these vehicles were all related). The gold vehicle passed the van in a no-passing zone, striking a commercial vehicle traveling westbound head-on. The commercial vehicle was being followed by a box truck.

The van and box truck received minor damage and all occupants were uninjured. The driver of the commercial vehicle was transported to a local hospital (Arrowhead) with non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the gold passenger car was transported via air to John C. Lincoln North and is expected to survive. The driver was wearing his safety restraints.

It is believed all three passengers of the gold passenger car were wearing safety restraints; however, it would not have prevented their deaths due to the severity of the collision. The driver of the passenger car is believed to be from Arizona, the deceased occupants are believed to be from Uzbekistan. Positive identification and next of kin notification is still pending. We have no additional information at this time.

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